

DEC 20 2004

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gunji et al

Application No.: 09/926,299

Filing Date: October 9, 2001

For: L-AMINO ACID PRODUCING BACTERIUM  
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO  
ACID

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Steadman

Attorney Ref. No.: US-1310

Via Facsimile to: 703.872.9306

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIMEMail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to extend the period for response to the Office Action dated July 23, 2004, which set a three-month shortened statutory period for reply, 1 month(s) to December 23, 2004.

☒ The period for response has previously been extended to November 23, 2004.

Please charge our deposit account 50-3077 the requisite fees for this petition. Also, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, necessary to maintain pendency of this application to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Shelly Guest Cermak  
Registration No. 39,571U.S. P.T.O. Customer No. 38108  
Ajinomoto Corporate Services LLC  
1120 Connecticut Ave., Ste. 1010  
Washington D.C. 20036.  
202.457.0284  
Date: December 20, 2004